Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 2, starting at line 9

One ~~of~~ or more of the following features may also be included. The control bit is set ~~be~~ by a programmer. The method includes handling the output as an STS connection when the control bit is ~~not~~ set and assembling the output from multiple VT connections when the control bit is not set or vice versa. The method includes storing the control bit in a connection memory or in a register.

Page 2, starting at line 15

The method includes checking a state of a second control bit associated with independent and concatenated payloads. The method includes cross-connecting a second payload with a first payload ~~is~~ if the second control bit is set. The method includes storing the second control bit in a connection memory or a ~~resister~~ register. The method includes checking a state of the second control bit only if the first control bit is set.